SOCCER STAR

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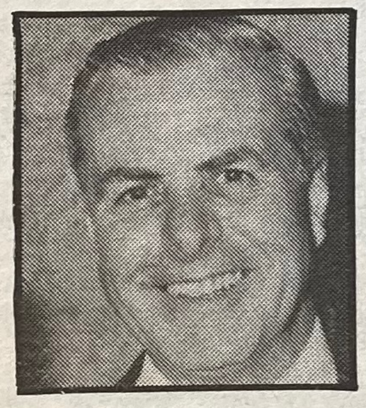
VSF PROBE!

AN enquiry will be set up immediately to investigate allegations that Junior League documents, and possibly money, disappeared late last year.

Newly-appointed VSF Chairman Mr Vito Cilauro said he was scandalised to hear rumours on his return from a South American holiday that the account books of the Junior League Management Committee had still not been found.

"I shall be instructing my Board of Management that an enquiry must be set in train as soon as possible, before the good name of Victorian soccer is dragged further into the mud," Mr Cilauro said.

"And if our investigations don't get the matter settled, I'm prepared to call in outside help."



● Mr Vito Cilauro.

GOAL DROUGHT AS OUR CLUBS SLUMP

ROUND six of the NSL left Melbourne fans with little to cheer about, with none of the six local clubs able to manage a win.

In a lacklustre round, the seven games produced only fourteen goals and five of those were contributed by Marconi.

At North Sunshine, Sydne Croatia's impenetrable defence blunted Melbourne Croatia's free-scoring attack and the result was stalemate.

Melbourne JUST managed to halt its losing run with a scoreless draw against St George but its attack lacked bite, and South Melbourne had defender Angie Postecoglou to thank for a last-gasp equaliser against Adelaide City at Hindmarsh.

Heidelberg wasn't as lucky, it remained anchored at the bottom of the ladder thanks to a lastminute winner by Jason van Blerk for fellow-struggler Blacktown City.

Sunshine George Cross survived an aborted take-off at Tullamarine and lost half its luggage before managing a scoreless draw at Wollongong, whilst Preston Makedonia survived a second-half onslaught by Sydney Olympic to earn a draw and keep a foothold in the top five.

Lucky win over Malmo for 'new' Socceroos

● A tense moment in the Socceroos v Malmo game as Wally Savor helps to organise an edgy defence.

NSL RESULTS AT A GLANCE

- MELB. CROATIA 0 SYDNEY CROATIA 0
- MELB. JUST 0 ST GEORGE 0
- 'BERGERS 1 B'TOWN 2
- SYD. OLYMPIC 1 PRESTON 1
- W'GONG 0 GEORGE X 0
- AD CITY 2 SOUTH 2

SNIPPETS

SOCCER-BASHING, ABC STYLE

By LES SHORROCK

I'VE been doing the ABC and its sports presenter Arthur Higgins a great disservice it would appear.

Week after week I've been complaining querylously about Higgins' reticence on the subject of soccer ever since he slipped into that chair alongside Mary Delahunty.

You see, I was naive enough to imagine that having snaffled the right to cover National League matches, the ABC would be falling over itself to find soccer stories for the seven o'clock news, but of course, I overlooked how busy the Ripponlea boys can get.

Arthur "didn't know" about the Buffalo Cup semi-finals, and couldn't get along as promised to the Cup-final itself, whilst Malmo came and went unnoticed (SBS still has the rights to Socceroo matches you see).

But I was doing the taxpayers' channel an injustice by expecting news coverage of such unimportant events.

The ABC news-room at Ripponlea, with its impeccable news-sense was merely waiting for the right story to come along and last weekend it did.

"SOCCER BRAWL" trumpeted Delahunty gleefully on Monday night, and in case you missed it, the item was amongst the headlines, and was repeated at the end of the newscast.

And in the great tradition of never letting the facts get in the way of the story, the ABC managed to turn a minor fracas off-field into a story about the need for more police protection at soccer matches.

How remarkable that a story about trouble at a soccer match in Sydney should merit headline treatment in Melbourne!

Thanks a lot Arthur, now I know what you meant when you said soccer was one of your favourite sports.

You should have added "until I joined the ABC".

And thanks also to those idiots in our soccer hierarchy who ditched SBS in favour of rugby-loving Auntie in the mistaken belief that the game would get more coverage.

Meanwhile, it is pertinent to ask what has soccer gained as a result of NSL Manager Peter Russell's ungracious edict that other channels' cameras are barred from NSL grounds now.

Don't we need all the good publicity we can get?

Ask Frank Pangallo, sports director of Adelaide's Channel Seven whose camera crew was barred from entering Hindmarsh Stadium last week when he wanted to do a preview news item.

Ask Andy Paschalides of SBS who had a similar experience at a Sydney ground, and ask Kyle Patterson, here in Melbourne.

Ask John Economos in Sydney which NSL official switched off his ground announcer microphone because he had the temerity to mention SBS.

What's next, Mr Papasavas . . . censorship of the Press?

★★★★★★★★★★

THEY BREED 'EM HARDY IN LIVERPOOL

In Neville Wran's immortal words, Balmain boys don't cry and the same adage could apply equally well to the inhabitants of another hard-bitten area, Liverpool.

Scousers don't cry over spilt milk either, as one Jim Tansey would readily testify.

Jim took on a tough job when he accepted the coaching job at Heidelberg, and with the Bergers' dismal start to the NSL season, the task of lifting the club off the bottom of the ladder has become a Herculean one, but he isn't about to crack.

"We didn't exactly romp away with the State League title last year," he says, "but some people looked at the team with rose-coloured glasses and didn't realise the immensity of the task ahead.

"Let's just get established for the first season, then get a couple of class players the next year and get back to the glory days again,, they said.

"So they bought a few players locally and only now is it beginning to filter through that the players they bought weren't good enough, and the panic button has been pressed.

"Suddenly, they're hitting me with names of players from all over the place whether they are suitable or not.

"Sure, we've signed Garry McDowall, Peter Tredinnick and Alan Scott, and if Ron Campbell can get his fee reduced by the Tribunal we'll sign him too, but the supporters can't expect a miraculous improvement overnight.

"Garry won't be fit for a couple of weeks, and Peter and Alan haven't played for some time and will have to get match fit.

"But we have some weeding-out to do too.

"Con Pappas, Lou Theodosopoulos and Arthur Patiniotis will go and so will Aki Alagozidis if his attitude doesn't improve.

"But the one newcomer I have great hopes for is Angy Goutzioulis, who had a sensational start to his career, playing with Caulfield City last year, then fell away badly.

"He has the right attitude, is willing to learn, and I think he will become a leading striker in time.

Talking of attitude, though, it's remarkable how the players react to a few new faces at training.

"Suddenly, they are all running, where before they were lethargic . . . it's wonderful what a bit of pressure can do."

No, "Tanse" isn't going to crack under the strain and if he is left alone to do the job, he's the man to bring back the glory days to the Olympic Village.

★★★★★★★★★★

MALMO A HAPPY MEMORY

Swedish champions Malmo FF left Melbourne for Sydney last Saturday, beaten but far from disgraced and leaving behind them nothing but pleasant memories.

Their astute and personable English manager Roy Hodgson made a big impression with his speech at the Offside Club luncheon, and it is a great pity that due to an unfortunate set of circumstances, more guests were unable to attend.

The launch of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation's promotion of soccer was scheduled for the same time as the lunch and although the VHPF was obliging enough to bring the launch forward by an hour, the damage had already been done and a lot of intending guests cried off.

Roy Hodgson, who has piloted Malmo to the Swedish First Division championship for the last four years attributes his team's success (modestly) to a marriage of English and Swedish styles.

As recent articles in the world's sporting Press have stressed, Swedes are the flavour of the month in sport, as much for their admirable behaviour as for their undoubted talent.

It's hard to imagine Wilander or Edberg climbing over spectators at Wimbledon or carrying on like Cash at a press conference for instance, and this innate imperturbability is one of his team's greatest assets, according to Hodgson.

They demonstrated it last Friday night, even when the tide was running against them they carried on playing well and were extremely unlucky to be beaten.

Even Martin Dahlin's lapse from grace when he retaliated against Warren Spink and was duly sent off by referee Chris Bambridge was not glossed over by his manager.

"It was a good decision and the lad deserved it," said the diplomatic Hodgson at the post-match press conference.

"He's got to learn he can't get his own way all the time," he added.

Dahlin certainly didn't get his own way all the time, especially in the closing minutes when Andrew Bernal pulled him back by the shirt collar just as he was about to score, and Bambridge scandalously did nothing about it.

Considering that Malmo should have had a penalty for that, Leif Engvist hit the bar, and there was more than a suspicion of offside about one of Australia's goals, you have to feel that the Socceroos were more than a touch lucky to get away with a win.

In fairness, it has to be said that Oscar Crino, Garry McDowall, Paul Wade and Charlie Yankos were all badly missed, but even if we improve 100 per cent on that performance, we'll be lucky to get past Israel in the World Cup.

Yes, I know that Frank Arok is hoping to bring back David Mitchell, Eddie Krncevic and Yankos, but is that going to help?

After the time the two strikers have been away from Australia, how could they be expected to fit in?

Apart from when Spink caught the Malmo defenders mentally in the dressing room with that first-minute goal, Australia's strikers never presented a threat to Jonnie Fedel in the Malmo goal.

By contrast, Jeff Olver was busier than a one-armed paper-hanger with hives, and at one time in the second half deliberately booted the ball over the fence to give himself some breathing space before taking a goal-kick, (apparently unnoticed by Chris Bambridge).

Contd. on page 15

● Vlado Stosic

STOSIC TO RETURN?

It's a pity that the magnificent improvements to Melbourne JUST's Schintler Reserve haven't been matched by the team's performances to date.

But that could be about to change.

Once Oscar Crino recovers from his mystery virus and Ken Murphy gets fully match-fit, the midfield should start to blossom, and the club is also hoping to bring out skilful Red Star forward Vlado Stosic again as a guest.

Stosic made a big impression when he played for Footscray in the 1986 season.

NOEL DIGHT HOLDEN CUP PRESEASON CUP

3rd ROUND — Saturday 18th February

Ringwood Utd v Waverley 2.00 KO
Mooroolbark A v Knox City 3.3 KO

Sunday 19th February

Ringwood City v Ferntree Gully 2.00 KO
Mooroolbark B v Croydon City 3.30 KO

4th ROUND — Saturday 25th February

Winners Group A v Runners Up Group B 2.00 KO
Winners Group B v Runners Up Group A 3.30 KO

Sunday 26th February — FINALS DAY
Losers from Saturday 2.00 KO
Winners from Saturday 3.30 KO

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2 ALL STAR GAMES
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MOOROOLBARK NATIONAL LEAGUE XI v PRESENT MOOROOLBARK XI AT 4 PM

IN THE FIRING LINE!

'Berger bosses copping flak

BY BOB BRIAN of the Melbourne Herald

THE Heidelberg United leadership has closed ranks following the angry demonstrations after last Sunday's 1-2 defeat by Blacktown City.

President Lou Yonnidis gave coach Jim Tansey his unqualified support by saying "If Jim goes I will go, too". And it seems clear that some kind of crisis is looming.

Heidelberg has taken only two points from its six National League games and, perhaps not surprisingly, the vultures are gathering looking for bones to pick.

The Greek press has been unsympathetic and the supporters downright explosive and Yonnidis is left with the problem of keeping them under control for about three more weeks.

"I firmly believe that in three weeks or so, you will see a very different Heidelberg team," he said.

"I expect to have Gary McDowall signed up and playing by then and Ronnie Campbell ready to do the same.

"At the oment Campbell has written to the appeals' board concerning the $14,000 Preston wants for his transfer. We think it is too much in view of his injury.

"As soon as that decision comes through, we can make a move.

"The only problem with McDowall is his fitness. We have agreed to pay Brunswick Juventus $18,000 and the money will change hands as soon as he passes a fitness test."

These two players will make the world of difference to the team and if Alan Scott and Peter Tredinnick continue to show the form they did against Blacktown, we will have every reason to feel confident.

But there is no doubt Yonnidis is both worried and angry about the attitude of a group of the club's supporters.

"They are crying out for John Margaritis to be made coach and also that we are doing the wrong thing by signing players and not giving young Greeks a chance," he said.

"What a lot of nonsense. They have been given a chance but they are not yet good enough, although I'm sure they only need a bit of time.

"But in the meantime, we have to produce a team that will keep us in the National League and that is what we are trying to do."

●●●●●●●●●●

FALCON MAN

Stuart Stevenson, a former Heidelberg United player, has played a couple of training games for Morwell Falcons although he has had a good offer to join Altona Gate.

○○○○○○○○○○

MISSING OUT

FRANKSTON Pines has signed striker Ian Stirton from Morwell Falcons to play alongside player-coach Joe Sweeney, but looks like missing out on John Dowie.

Dowie has had a good offer to join the growing "British" colony at Albion and looks like lining up alongside Donny MacLeod, Jimmy Campbell, Gordon Flavell and player-coach Ian Wallace.

●●●●●●●●●●

GULLY CHANCE

Green Gully is interested in Morwell defender Andy McMillan to fill the vacancy left by the transfer of Stuart Cannell to Melbourne Croatia.

●●●●●●●●●●

JIM TO PRAHRAN?

Jim MacLean, who quit Croatia last season, hopes to play for Prahran Celtic next season. One of his teammates could be Heidelberg United coach Jim Tansey, who has still not lost the urge to kick a ball about.

● Jim McLean . . hoping to play for Prahran.

● Andy McMillan (left)... Green Gully is after him.

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Michael or John Contos AH 460 1392

HAWTHORN LEAGUE: Swinburne Technical School, Burwood Road, Hawthorn. Robert Varela AH 428 5598

BALWYN LEAGUE: Balwyn Leisure Centre, 230 Balwyn Road, Balwyn North. Janine McPhee BH 25 1919 AH 801 2609

NOBLE PARK LEAGUE: Geof Stickland BH 795 2366 AH 560 4139

ASCOT VALE LEAGUE: Ascot Vale Leisure Centre, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale. Janine McPhee BH 25 1919 AH 801 2609

WEST SUNSHINE LEAGUE: West Sunshine Community Centre, Kermeen Street, West Sunshine. Angela Jolic BH 311 5888

OR CONTACT

Victorian Indoor Soccer Association Inc.,
27 Lincoln Street, Brunswick. Telephone (03) 386 2588

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All referees in our Association are graded and must complete a Referees Course in order to officiate.

Round Six Details

MARCONI 5(Nastevski pen.29th,45th,47th,Gray 34th,48th).APIA LEICHHARDT 0
At Marconi Stadium,Saturday.Crowd 7655
Referee R.Davies.Cautions Pezzano,Kosmina,Ricoy, Ellam,Bundalo(A)
MARCONI:*Catlin - Carter,Wheatley,Calderan,Gomez - McCulloch,Gray(de Marigny 70th),Katholos,Lowe - Nastevski(Caliguri 75th),de Jong. Coach Berti Mariani.*
APIA LEICHHARDT:*Pezzano - Stewart,Radosavlevic, O'Connor,M.Brown- Ricoy,Ellam(Hagan 72nd),Bundalo (Webber 80th),Mason - Kosmina,R.Brown. Coach Mark Urukalo.*

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 SYDNEY CROATIA 0
At Somers St.Sunday.Crowd 8000.
Referee J.Santa Isabel.Caution Foster(SC)
MELBOURNE CROATIA:*Olver-Opasinis,Cannell,Donnelly, Davidson - Valentic,Milosevic,Biskic,Caleta-Kelic, (Duzel 88th),Awaritefe.Coach Ivan Raznevjic.*
SYDNEY CROATIA:*Franken-Savor,Rozic,Hunter,Jennings -Clinch,Petkovic,Jones,Foster - Arnold,Ingham. Coach Vedran Rozic.*

HEIDELBERG 1(Stewart 38th) BLACKTOWN 2(Naumov 67th,van Blerk 91st).
At Olympic Village,Sunday.Crowd 2500.
Referee C.Bambridge.
HEIDELBERG:*Banovic - Bordignon,Scott,Ousalkas, Douglas-Lucchesi,Stewart,Burgess(Tredinnick 70th), Kanesoulis - Goutzioulis,Stubbins. Coach Jim Tansey.*
BLACKTOWN:*Watson-Naumov,Reynolds,Northam,G.Sterrey, -Odzakov,L.Sterrey,Meier,Arambasic(Wright 72nd) - McKinna,van Blerk.Coach Les Scheinflug.*

WOLLONGONG 0 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 0.
At Brandon Park,Sunday.Crowd 2000.Referee A.Owens. Cautions Hollifield,Vlietstra,Easthorpe(W),Marth, (GX).
WOLLONGONG:*Young-Kotamanides,Vlietstra,Giraldi, Hollifield- Stefanovski(Higgs 75th),Bonetig,Skeen, Crainie - Brodnik(Brown 78th),Easthorpe. Coach John Fleming.*
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS:*Keogh-Taylor,Waddell,Parton, Marth - Carter,Hasler,Ketsakides,Lennon - Lewis, Latif.Coach John Gardiner.*

MELBOURNE JUST 0 ST.GEORGE 0
At Schintler Reserve,Sunday.Crowd 2500.
Referee J.Fraser Caution Pottier(StG).
MELBOURNE JUST:*Nikitovic - Deankovic,Durakovic (Mitrovski 70th),van Egmond,Fabrizio - Murphy, Tapai,Lazopoulos,Crino - Palatsides,Dimoski. Coach Ilija Dimoski.*
ST.GEORGE:*Gibson-Green,Ratcliffe,Koczka,Grbevski - O'Shea,Ilic(Krslovic 71st),Moffitt,Pottier - Bingley(Harper 74th),Ollerenshaw.Coach Frank Arok.*

ADELAIDE CITY 2(Flounders 18th,Melta 54th) SOUTH MELBOURNE 2(Foster 73rd,Postecoglou 89th.
At Hindmarsh Stadium,Sunday 3200.
Referee D.Campbell.Caution McLaren (SM).
ADELAIDE CITY:*Zabica - Naven,Nyskohus,Flounders, Tobin - Melta,Northcote(Santrac 86th),Villani, Vidmar - Mullen(Vial 52nd),Maxwell. Coach Zoran Matic.*
SOUTH MELBOURNE:*McLaren - Russell,Anezakis,Blair, Postecoglou - Healy,Michell,Petersen,Mori(Foster 70th) - Trimboli,Wright.*

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1(Lee 80th) PRESTON MAKEDONIA 1 (Zinni 34th)
At St.George Stadium,Sunday.Crowd 5549.Referee J.McConnell.Cautions Hooker (SO)Piculovski (PM).
SYDNEY OLYMPIC:*Meier - Hooker,Dakos,Bernal,Koch - Ironside,Pontidas,Polak,McGarry(Lee 60th) - Soper, Edwards.Coach Eddie Thomson.*
PRESTON MAKEDONIA:*Traianides -Runje,Jackson, Piculovski,Jolevski - Tasevski,Markovac(Slifkas 80th),Markovski,Zinni - Smith,Spink. Coach Andon Doncevski.*

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

GOAL SCORERS

8.Kelic(MCr)

5.Nastevski(Mar)

4.Brown.R(Ap)
Ollerenshaw(StG)

3.Bingley(StG)
Dimoski (MC)
Gray(Mar)
Kosmina(Ap)
Mori(SM)
Ollerenshaw(StG)
Spink(PM)

2.Awaritefe(MC)
Biskic(MC)
Easthorpe(W)
Latif(GX)
Lewis(GX)
Lowe(Mar)
McKinna(Bl)
Melta(AC)
Mullen(AC)
Postecoglou(SM)
Slater(SC)
Soper(SO)
van Blerk(Bl)
Zinni(PM)

1.Arnold(SC)
Bernal(SO)
Brodnik(W)
Calderan(Mar)
Caleta(MC)
Crainie(W)
Crino(MC)
de Jong(Mar)
Denyer(Bl)
Faulkner(GX)
Flounders(AC)
Foster(SM)
Hagan(Ap)
Hasler(GX)
Ingham(SC)
Ironside(SO)
Koczka(St.G)
Lazopoulos(MJ)
Lee(SO)
Markovac(PM)
Markovski(PM)
McGarry(SO)
Milosevic(MC)
Nauov(Bl)
Odzakov(Bl)
Palatsides(MC)
Radoslavjevic(Ap)
Raynes(H)
Ricoy(Ap)
Solomides(MCr)
Sterrey.G(Bl)
Stewwart(H)
Stubbins(H)
Theodosopoulos(H)
Trimboli(SM)
Tsolakis(SM)
Vial(AC)

● Ivan Kelic still leading the goalscorers.

NSL Ladder

MARCONI	6	4	1	1	13	4	9
MELBOURNE CROATIA	6	3	2	1	15	9	8
SYDNEY CROATIA	6	3	2	1	4	1	8
ST.GEORGE	6	3	2	1	7	5	8
PRESTON MAKEDONIA	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
APIA Leichhardt	6	3	1	2	8	9	7
Sydney Olympic	6	2	2	2	7	4	6
Wollongong	6	2	2	2	5	4	6
Blacktown City	6	3	0	3	8	15	6
South Melbourne	6	2	1	3	8	7	5
George Cross	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Melbourne JUST	6	1	2	3	6	8	4
Adelaide City	6	1	1	4	6	9	3
Heidelberg United	6	1	0	5	4	16	2

Youth Ladder

Preston Mak.	6	5	0	1	27	6	10
George Cross	5	4	1	0	15	6	9
Caulfield City	6	3	2	1	14	9	8
Altona Gate	6	4	0	2	5	4	8
Heidelberg	6	3	1	2	11	10	7
South Melbourne	4	2	0	2	19	7	4
Melb.Croatia	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Melb.JUST	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Clayton	6	1	2	3	8	19	4
Clifton Hill	4	0	1	3	1	13	1
Malvern City	4	0	1	3	5	19	1
Waverley United	4	0	0	4	4	15	0

NSL Youth League Results Round Six

HEIDELBERG UNITED 2 ALTONA GATE 0
CLAYTON 2 CAULFIELD CITY 2
MALVERN CITY 0 PRESTON MAKEDONIA 10
WAVERLY UN.1 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 4
CLIFTON HILL 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 8

Fixtures Round Seven

PRESTON MAKEDONIA v MELBOURNE CROATIA
ALTONA GATE v CAULFIELD CITY
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS v MALVERN CITY
SOUTH MELBOURNE v WAVERLEY UNITED
CLIFTON HILL v CLAYTON
MELBOURNE JUST bye
HEIDELBERG UNITED bye.

NSL REPORTS

Draw drops Croatia from top

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0 SYD. CROATIA 0 MAN OF THE MATCH:

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *ALAN HUNTER*

Melbourne Croatia dropped from the top of the table when it was held to a scoreless draw by the steely defence of Sydney Croatia at the Croatian Sports Centre on Saturday night.

Ivan Kelic, the league's top scorer with eight goals, and fellow Melbourne Croatia striker Francis Awaritefe were kept in close check by Mark Jones and Alan Hunter, enabling Sydney to steal one match point.

Sydney Croatia missed explosive forward Robbie Slater, whose absence robbed the visitors of the punch they needed to beat Melbourne Croatia's brilliant sweeper Alan Davidson.

Without Slater, Graham Arnold was alone up front and could not get through the defence despite a game battle.

Sydney Croatia player-coach Vedran Rozic answered the Victorians' wing play with Wally Savor and Graham Jennings shadowing Joe Caleta and Josip Biskic closely throughout the match.

In desperation, Melbourne Croatia started channelling every attack through Awaritefe, who found it impossible to get past Hunter.

Kelic started seeing less and less of the ball and eventually was replaced by Ivan Duzel two minutes from the end.

Sydney midfielder Ivan Petkovic had the first scoring chance of the game in the 30th minute, on a rebound off the defence with goalkeeper Jeff Olver off his line, but shot too high.

Awaritefe sped goalwards on a through pass from Caleta just before half-time but his shot hit the side netting.

Sydney Croatia midfielder Shane Clinch got the ball unmarked inside the penalty area but a bad bounce prevented him scoring and enabled Olver to palm the ball into safety.

The Sydney defence, having conceded only one goal in six rounds, remains the safest in the league, while Melbourne Croatia's haul of 15 goals is rivalled only by Marconi's 13.

DEMONS DOWN BERGERS

HEIDELBERG 1 (Stewart 38th) BLACKTOWN 2 (Naumer 67th, Van Blerk 91st)

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *ZARKO ODZAKOV*

Midfielder Zarko Odzakov inspired Blacktown City to a 2-1 win over ailing Heidelberg United at Melbourne's Olympic Village in their clash on Sunday afternoon.

Blacktown kept control over Heidelberg in the second half of the game to claim full points from its second visit to Melbourne.

The win compensated for Blacktown's 6-0 thrashing by Melbourne Croatia in its first visit to Melbourne two weeks ago.

A brilliant comeback in the second half of the game enabled Blacktown to overcome the one-goal deficit incurred at the 38th minute.

The inability of the visitors to jude the strong wind allowed Heidelberg to grab the lead when Phil Stubbings outpaced his marker along the flank and sent Claude Lucchesi through with a pass.

It was Lucchesi's second attempt to pierce Blacktown's defence which found John Stewart unmarked at the far post.

The diminutive midfielder tapped the ball in the net from close range and the teams broke with Heidelberg leading 1-0.

Les Scheinflug gave his players a roasting at half-time, and Blacktown resumed in top gear.

Within seconds of the re-start, Laurie McKinna missed twice from close range while Jason Van Blerk shot narrowly wide from inside the box.

Blacktown levelled the score after 67 minutes when Odzakov outmanouvered Heidelberg's defence and found substitute Bill Wright inside the box.

The burly striker headed the ball toward the goal and Heidelberg keeper Yakka Banovic could only palm it as far as incoming Robert Naumov, who netted the equaliser.

Blacktown continued attacking through the middle with Zarko Odzakov instigating most of its attacks.

A draw looked certain after 90 minutes but in injury time, Blacktown snatched a desperate goal and the match points when Van Blerk outpaced Heidelberg's defence and hamered the ball in the net.

'GONG AND CROSS FALL DOWN ON THE JOB

WOLLONGONG 0 GEORGE CROSS 0

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *DANNY CRAINIE*

Wollongong City and Sunshine George Cross looked like relegation material as they battled out a scoreless draw in Sunday's match at Brandon Park.

Even allowing for the strong wind which blew down the ground, the performances of the team were abysmal.

Wollongong had by far the better of a boring game but fell down badly around the edge of the Sunshine penalty area.

"Both teams ran out of ideas," Wollongong coach John Fleming said after the final whistle.

"Our supporters should get used to it because we are going to battle every week from now on."

Fleming was critical of referee Arthur Owens, claiming he didn't allow the game to flow.

The Wollongong coach said some of Owens' decisions were quite unbelievable.

"Quite amazing," was the word Shunshine coach John Gardiner used to describe the referee.

"He had a shocker," Gardiner said. "Apart from the referee, it was a real battle by two very similar teams."

During the game, Owens showed the yellow card to Mike Hollifield, Ray Vlietstra and Randell Easthorpe (Wollongong), and Sunshine midfielder Andrew Marth.

Wollongong looked like clinching both points in the last minute after midfielder Danny Crainie burst down the left and sent over a cross which eluded Sunshine goalkeeper Sean Keogh. But defender Shaun Parton was able to hook the ball clear just as it was about to cross the line.

Sunshine rarely threatened at the other end but Ossie Latif should have scored for them in the 20th minute. He was left unmarked just five metres out but powered the ball high over the crossbar.

Bad run ends JUST in time

MELB. JUST 0 ST GEORGE 0

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *ERNIE TAPAI*

Melbourne JUST brought an end to its depressing run of three successive defeats by sharing a 0-0 draw with St George in the game at Schintler Reserve on Sunday night.

Melbourne JUST had the lion's share of possession, with Ernie Tapai in outstanding form on the right side of midfield.

But the side again failed in the finishing department, and it was St George which had the clearest chance of the game in the 51st minute.

Matthew Bingley got on the end of a cross from Scott Ollerenshaw and his attempted strike was saved on the line by Gary Van Egmond.

Bingley had another chance on the rebound but the shot cleared the crossbar.

One of Melbourne's rare shots on target came from Kenny Murphy but his drive from outside the box was turned away for a corner by Mike Gibson in the 22nd minute.

Midway through the second half, Melbourne striker Milan Dimoski made a run from the back half and hit a shot which slid narrowly past the far post.

NSL Cup 1st Round Draw

Round 1 — Wednesday March 1, 1989

Match	Kick off	Venue
A. Melb. City JUST v Sunshine George	7.30 pm,	Olympic Park.
B. Marconi v Blacktown City,	7.30 pm	Marconi Stadium.
C. St. George BSC v Sydney Olympic	7.30 pm	St George Stadium.
Wednesday March 8, 1989		
D. Melbourne Croatia v Heidelberg Utd	7.30 pm	Olympic Park.
E. Sydney Croatia v APIA Leichhardt	7.30 pm	Croatian Sports Centre
Monday March 13, 1989		
F. South Melbourne v Preston Makedonia	7.30 pm	Middle Park.

MARCONI IN CRUSHING WIN

MARCONI 5 (Nastevski 29th pen., 45th, 47th, Gray 34th, 48th) APIA LEICH. 0

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *ZLATKO NASTEVSKI*

Marconi climbed to the top of the ladder with a crushing 5-0 win over Apia Leichhardt at Marconi Stadium.

Before the match each of them had a share of first place with the same number of goals scored and conceded, but the thrashing saw Apia tumble in the standings.

The first 30 minutes gave no indication of the spate of goals to come, with both teams adopting cautious safety-first tactics.

Marconi opened the floodgates on the half hour when Darren Stewart brought down Zlatko Nastevski in the box and the clever playmaker converted the kick himself with a low shot inside the post.

Marconi made it 2-0 in the 34th minute with a classic goal.

Ian Gray worked the ball midfield, passed to David Lowe on the right wing, then positioned himself perfectly to get the ball back and smack it past Apia goalkeeper Tony Pezzeno.

Nastevski scored his second goal just on half-time after a sweeping move involving four Marconi players.

Lowe started it with a pass to Tommy McCulloch whose lob went back to Lowe who steered the ball to the lurking Nastovski. His angled drive gave Pezzano no chance.

The second half started sensationally with two Marconi goals in the first few minutes.

It was Fred de Jong who worked the ball along the byline, Pezzano paced out to meet him and the ball rebounded on the pass of Nasievski, who completed his hat-trick off the post.

The crowd of 7,655 were on their feet again less than a minute later when the irrepressible Nastevski beat three Apia defenders before back-heeling the ball to Gray who made no mistake with his second goal.

Marconi coach Berti Mariani caused a stir when he substituted both Gray and Nastevski shortly after their goals.

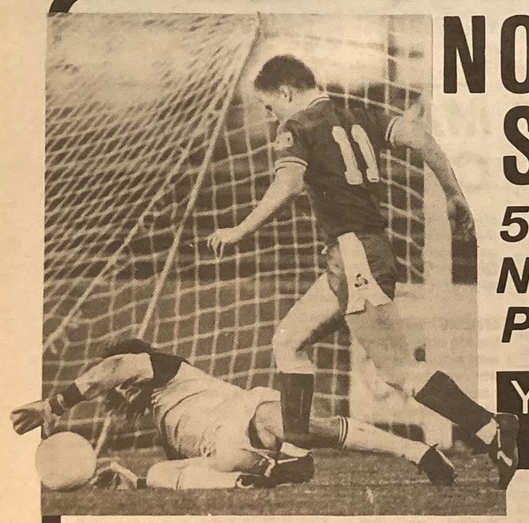
A demoralised Apia Leichhardt was on the receiving end of five yellow cards in a hectic second half.

OUR ACTION-PACKED PICTURE PAGE

Pictures: LES SHORROCK

● Above: Con Opasinis isn't about to let Alan Hunter get away.
● Right: Jeff Olver punches clear from Mark Jones, with a little help from his friends.

MELBOURNE CROATIA v SYDNEY CROATIA



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NAME CHANGE AMONG PLANS FOR FUTURE

IN the last two issues, we have discussed the origins and development of the league. In passing, we have recounted some of the high spots and the lows experienced by our member clubs. Despite the occasional setback, the trend has been to a solid and continual growth in the numerical and playing strength of the league's various competitions.

What then of the future?

The league's management committee is dedicated to maintaining policies which will ensure that the steady growth of the past will continue. At the same time, those policies will mean that the standard of behavior and the "professionalism" of its member clubs will show continued improvement.

One of the prime aims is that the league, in its competition, will earn and maintain its reputation as the "friendly league". Human nature being what it is, this last objective is never easy to achieve, but a task's being difficult to achieve is never an excuse for not attempting it.

One of the moves already under way is to segment our competitions so that those clubs which have ambitions will play in one section, while those who wish merely to play in a "social" competition will be placed in another.

In effect, this is really a separation between morning and afternoon competition.

The afternoon division created in 1988, proved outstandingly successful on all counts. In 1989, a second afternoon division will be formed, and it is expected that both divisions will prove to be just as competitive as was last year's.

As time goes by, and the professional leagues contract, it is inevitable that the size and influence of the amateur scene will be enhanced.

In this regard, the league has already had the unanimous approval of its member clubs and the consent of the Victorian Soccer Federation, to a change in title to the Amateur Soccer Federation of Victoria.

This change will be effected in the near future so that the right vehicle will be provided to cater for the anticipated increase in the size and complexity of the amateur side of the game.

In the meantime, the league is working flat out to get its thinking right so that all of the things which need to be done in the medium to long term are done at the appropriate time, and done well.

Part of this process is to ensure that we have a very effective means of consultation with our member clubs.

The special "Presidents' Nights" at which the presidents of each division are invited to a social evening with the committee are a very effective part of this process.

In a relaxed atmosphere such as this, it is far easier for both parties to get their respective views across. Another very effective method is to make sure that as many committee members as possible attend as many matches as possible.

●●●●●●●●●●

THE AFRICAN CONNECTION

A new club which will form part of the 1989 scene is the Harambee Soccer club.

Harambee is a Swahili word which can be roughly translated as "pulling together". The idea behind the formation of the club is to provide a vehicle to unite all the various African groups living in Melbourne.

Its membership is drawn from points as far apart as Ethiopia, South Africa and the Cameroons, as well as from most of the points inbetween.

As several of its members have played at the very highest level in their own countries, it can be expected that the team will exhibit a feast of soccer skills.

While on the subject of new teams, we might ask who the devil is Alexander the Great? When we tell you that the evergreen Lou Yonnidis will be pulling on his boots, you'll know the answer. Yes, it is Heidelberg United's venture into Industrial League ranks.

●●●●●●●●●●

NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS MOOTED

Sometimes soccer in this country succeeds in spite of all the disasters affecting it.

A typical example was the proposed meeting of State delegates to discuss the launch of a national amateur championship.

Delegates who were to attend would have represented the amateur bodies in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Tasmania, South Australia, the ACT, Victoria and New South Wales.

The meeting was set down for Sydney on February 11, but on the 9th Victoria's delegates found out accidentally that New South Wales had withdrawn the meeting facilities and had boycotted the meeting. Strenuous efforts were made to get these decisions reversed.

In the event, a much smaller meeting (more an informal discussion, really) was arranged for the Victorians' Sydney hotel.

In due course, representatives from Western Australia, the ACT, and New South Wales turned up, only to be told at the hotel reception that the Victorian had checked out four hours previously.

The upshot was that while the Victorians sat chewing their fingernails in one part of the hotel, the other three states had an amicable and constructive discussion in another part.

As a result, it was agreed that the Junior and Amateur Standing Committee of the ASF should be asked to consider staging a national open age amateur championship.

Despite all the red faces and the acrimony, it seems that soccer might win after all.

●●●●●●●●●●

VICTORIAN COUNTRY LEAGUES TO MEET

The eight bodies making up the Country Leagues Soccer Association will meet in Bendigo on Saturday (February 25).

High on the agenda will be the 11th Country Championships, which will be contested in Bendigo over the Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Defending champion will be the Bendigo Amateur Soccer League, whose win at Shepparton in 1988 was full of merit, and owed absolutely nothing to luck.

If Bendigo can put the same, or at least the same quality, squad in the field this year, it woul dhave to start an odds-on favorite.

Can the Big Two, Industrial League and Latrobe Valley, come back, or will the fiercely determined Sunraysia get a better return for its efforts than it did last year?

●●●●●●●●●●

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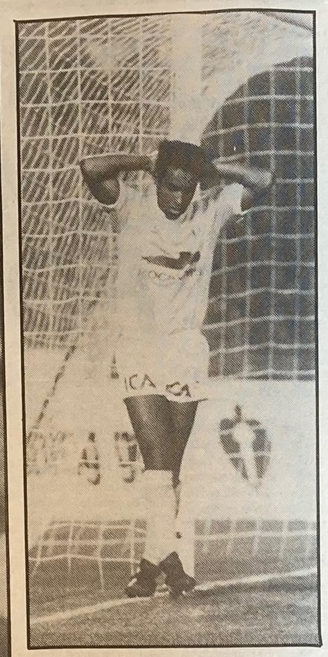

● Top *left*: Australia's Gary Van Egmond heads clear of Malmo's Harkan Lindman.
● Left: Gary Van Egmond keeps a watchful eye on Harkan Lindman.
● Middle: "How did that miss," says Martin Dahlin.
● Top right: Wally Savor watches a desperate Dahlin attempt.
● Jeff Olver was happy to scramble this shot around the post.

AUSTRALIA 3 (Spink 1st, 43rd, Koczka 83rd) MALMO FF 2 (Engqvist 72nd, Dahlin 84th)

At Olympic Park, Friday. Crowd 2851. Referee C. Bambridge. Sent off M. Dahlin (M).

AUSTRALIA: Olver — Savor, van Egmond, Kozka, Jennings (Bernal 78th) — Davidson, Polak, Raskopoulos (Petersen 34th), Arnold — Spink, Ollerenshaw (Trimboli 80th). Coach Frank Arok.

MALMO FF: Fedel — Agren, Ljung, Vonderburg (Jonsson 72nd), Persson — Larsson, Thern, Engqvist — Palmer (Pauckstadt 72nd), Dahlin, Lindman. Coach Roy Hodgson.

The Socceroos defeated the reigning Swedish Champions, Malmo, 3-2 at Olympic Park last Friday night.

But Malmo, the Swedish champion for the past four seasons, was desperately unlucky not to win.

It played a typical European style, with one fluency and skill which was a pleasure to watch.

But it was Australia which begun the match in sensational fashion. Only 66 seconds after the kick-off, striker Warren Spink ran onto a ball from skipper Alan Davidson and slotted it past Malmo goalkeeper Johnny Fedel.

From that moment onwards the small crowd witnessed some remarkable ballpwork as the Swedes took total control of the game whilst searching for an equaliser.

The visitors undeservedly fell further behind two minutes before half-time, after having done the majority of the attacking.

Australia's Scott Ollerenshaw took a corner which found Graham Arnold at the far post. Arnold's header rebounded off the post to Spink, who made no mistake in kneeing the ball over the line from a metre out.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● *WARREN SPINK*

MALMO ACTION

Swedes unlucky not to succeed

In the second-half Malmo continued to push forward and was rewarded with a goal in the 70th minute. Hard-working midfielder Leif Engqvist, who moments earlier was denied by the woodwork, let loose a blistering low drive from 20 metres out, which whistled past Olver and into the back of the net.

Eleven minutes later Australia restroed its two-goal lead thanks to some neat work from substitute Paul Trimboli, Andy Koczka and Arnold. After receiving a pass from Trimboli, Arnold pushed the ball forward for Koczka to slide his shot between the legs of the oncoming Malmo 'keeper.

Within a minute of Koczka's effort Malmo pulled a goal back and set the game up for a nail-biting finish.

Malmo's unmarked Martin Dahlin sidefooted a low cross from the left by Hakan Lindman, giving Olver no chance from only a few metres out.

But in the 87th minute Dahlin spoilt his fine performance by earning a red card after a late challenge on two-goal hero Spink.

Australia held on to win this first of a two-game series against Malmo, but Malmo were harshly done by only moments from the end, when what looked to be a certain penalty was turned down by referee Chris Bambridge.

— COSTA KOUTROPOULOS

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SNIPPETS

Continued from page 2

SBS WINS HANDS DOWN
The SBS delayed telecast of the game gave us an opportunity to compare its style with that of the ABC.

Although Mike Hill's diction and grammar are atrocious, he wins hands down over people like Gordon Bray and Peter Gee simply because he does his homework and of course he knows the players.

John Warren is so closely identified with the Socceroos, Arok and the whole Sydney scene that it is difficult for him to be objective, so when he admits that Malmo should have had a penalty, you can be damned sure it was so.

The sparse crowd was a great disappointment and of course will give the Sydney people even more ammunition in their battle to take all representative games away from Melbourne.

When I ventured to suggest to Arok, an hour before the game that we were once again unlucky enough to have a train strike, he rounded on me in fury.

"Excuses, excuses, every time we play here," he exploded.

He seems nowadays to have developed a strong dislike for everything to do with Melbourne (including this journalist) and has this fixation that down here, the crowd won't support the national team.

The way things are going, local fans won't be able to recognise the national team soon, they see it so rarely.

Whilst on the subject of Arok, you have to question the propriety of a man being at one and the same time, coach/manager of a club (St. George), a director and part-owner of the same club and the national coach.

Which hat has priority?

Can you imagine the outcry in say England, if Bobby Robson became a director of Manchester United or Liverpool?

★★★★★★★★★★

IS OLYMPIC PARK SECURITY JUST A MEMORY?
Whatever happened to security at Olympic Park?

On Friday night I noticed a fellow standing behind me on the running track with a Kodak instamatic.

When I pointed out to him that he was wasting his time and film he said "Oh I'm not a professional, I just wanted a few snaps for myself."

Why bother to have Press accreditations at all?

These days the running track at Olympic Park at an International match is busier than Bourke Street on a Saturday night.

And the Park's announcer Fred Villiers, had a very nasty and unnecessary experience too.

As he announced the Australian team, he mistakenly gave Warren Spink's club as Footscray, momentarily forgetting that Spink had been transferred to Preston.

Moments later, the announcers' booth door was smashed open and a yobbo disguised as a Preston supporter invaded the room, threatening Villiers.

Poor Fred was alone and there wasn't an Olympic Park employee within cooee. What about it, Gareth?

★★★★★★★★★★

NOW that Rothmans Medals are but a memory, they are starting to acquire an enhanced scarcity value.

And Branko Culina reminded me this week of another reason why his 1985 State League Medal is particularly rare.

It is and always will be, the only Rothmans Medal won by a native-born Australian!

OVERSEAS NEWS

Blissett squanders winning goal chance

LONDON: Second division Bournemouth came within inches of repeating its 1984 English Football Association Cup upset of Manchester United, but had to settle for a 1-1 home draw on Saturday.

Bournemouth striker Luther Blissett, a nemesis of United for more than a decade, had a chance to repeat history for himself and Bournemouth, but failed to connect with the ball from in front of an open goal three minutes from the end.

United, winner of six consecutive games entering the contest at Bournemouth and the third-placed team in the first division, was hoping its visit would erase memories of an embarrassing loss five years ago.

The Red Devils, who won the cup in 1983 and were to claim it again in 1985, lost to a third division Bournemouth club in 1984 in the cup's third round.

United was also coming face-to-face with an old tormentor, Blissett, who scored twice for the third-division Watford team that upset a Manchester squad in the league cup in 1978.

Blissett, the former England international, has already achieved hero status at Bournemouth, inspiring the club's rise of 13 places in the second division since he joined just three months ago.

No one at Bournemouth was complaining about the 1-1 draw, but Ferguson had much harsher words for his players, who allowed Bournemouth's Trevor Aylott to equalise in the 71st minute after Mark Hughes had scored in the 53rd minute.

In other key games in the fifth round of the FA Cup, defending champion Wimbledon overcame a 1-0 half-time deficit as it defeated Grimsby, of the fourth division, 3-1.

Liverpool's Irish international striker John Aldridge led the Reds into the quarter-finals after scoring two goals in a minute as it rallied to a 3-2 triumph at second division Hull.

A 15th minute goal by Graeme Sharpe was enough to give Everton victory at second division Barnsley.

Brentford advanced to the quarter-finals for the first time since 1949 after Gary Blissett scored two goals in the last 10 minutes in its match against Blackburn.

Norwich had to wait until the 81st minute before it could savour the delights of victory and qualify for the quarter-finals for the first time in six years with a 3-2 victory over Sheffield United.

Sheffield Wednesday drew 1-1 with Southampton at home.

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SCORES

ENGLISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FA) CUP

Fifth round: Barnsley 0 Everton 1, Blackburn 0 Brentford 2, Bournemouth 1 Manchester United 1, Charlton 0 West Ham 1, Hull 2 Liverpool 3, Norwich 3 Sheffield United 2, Wimbledon 3 Grimsby 1. Playing Sunday: Watford v Manchester United.

ENGLISH LEAGUE — DIVISION ONE

Luton 1 Middlesbrough 0, Queen's Park Rangers 0 Arsenal 0, Sheffield Wednesday 1 Southampton 1. Postponed: Charlton v Derby, Coventry v Liverpool, Everton v Aston Villa, Manchester United v Wimbledon, Newcastle v West Ham, Nottingham Forest v Millwall, Tottenham v Norwich.

DIVISION TWO

Birmingham 0 Manchester City 2, Bradford 2 West Bromwich 0, Leicester 1 Leeds 2, Oldham 2 Brighton 1, Plymouth 0 Chelsea 1, Portsmouth 1 Walsall 1, Swindon 4 Sunderland 1. Postponed: Birmingham v Manchester City, Blackburn v Oxford, Hull v Crystal Palace, Ipswich v Barnsley, Shrewsbury v Bournemouth, Watford v Stoke City.

DIVISION THREE

Blackpool 2 Bolton 0, Bristol Rovers 0 Mansfield 0, Bury 1 Preston 1, Chester 1 Notts County 0, Chesterfield 3 Gillingham 1, Fulham 3 Bristol City Notts County 0, Chesterfield 3 Gillingham 1, Fulham 3 Bristol City 1, Huddersfield 1 Northampton 2, Port Vale 2 Wigan 1, Reading 3 Cardiff 1, Swansea 1 Aldershot 0. Postponed: Wolverhampton v Sheffield United.

DIVISION FOUR

Carlisle 3 Hereford 0, Exeter 3 Burnley 0, Hartlepool 2 Doncaster 1, Leyton Orient 2 Scarborough 3, Lincoln 1 Torquay 0, Rotherham 1 Darlington 2, Scunthorpe 2 Colchester 3, York 0 Tranmere 1, Crewe 2 Wrexham 2, Halifax 0 Cambridge 0, Stockport 3 Rochdale 0. Postponed: Peterborough v Grimsby.

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Kilmarnock 0 Clyde 0.

DIVISION TWO

Berwick 2 Stirling 2, Cowdenbeath 2 Stenhousemuir 1, Dumbarton 4 East Fife 0, East Stirling 1 Brechin 1, Queen's Park 3 Albion 2. Postponed: Alloa v Arbroath, Montrose v Stranraer.

SCOTTISH FA CUP

Fourth round: Aberdeen 1 Dundee United 1, Celtic 4 Clydebank 1, Hearts 2 Partick 0, Hibernian 2 Motherwell 1, Meadowbank 0 Morton 1, Queen of the South 0 Alloa 0, Rangers 8 Stranraer 0, St Johnstone 2 Forfar 1.

NORTHERN IRISH CUP, Fifth Round: Ballyclare 2 Ballymena 2, Carrick 2 Portadown 1, Cliftonville 1 Park 0, Crusaders 1 Banbridge 0, Glenavon 0 Linfield 3, Larne 6 Donegal 1, Omagh 2 Glentoran 3, Tobermore 1 Cromac 1.

VICTORIAN LEAGUE CUP — 1ST PRELIM.

The following is the Draw for the 1st Preliminary Round of the Victorian League Cup to be played on Saturday March 11th 1989 commencing at 3 pm.

SPRINGV U v HAMLYN R
WAV. C v E. BRUNS/IVAH
CHELSEA v MOOROOLB
SUNBURY U v WILLIAMST
HAWTHORN v YALLOURN
WESTGATE v WERRIBEE
KEILOR v BELL PARK
CLARINDA v KARINGAL U
DONC. R v BENTL. GR
REGENT v S'HAM CITY
PASCOE V v ELTH/D.V.U
KNOX CITY v RICHMOND
HEIDELB. C v NTH GEEL
SEAFORD U v KEYSB
GEELONG v HOLLAND P
DOVETON v DANDENONG
BRIGHTON v YARRAV
FTG v LANGWARRIN

BYES: Clifton Hill, Albion, Mordialloc, Oakleigh, Corio/Geelong Utd, Rosanna, Western Suburbs, Moorabbin City, Clayton, Mornington, Essendon City, Altona City, Nunawading City, Port Melbourne.

RICOH DOCKERTY CUP — 1ST PRELIM. ROUND

THE following is the 1st Preliminary Round of the Ricoh Dockerty Cup to be played on Saturday February 25th 1989 commencing at 3 pm.

HAMLYN R. v WAVERLY C
BELL P v PORT MELB
SAND'HAM C v SPRINV UN
BRIGHTON v LANGW.
E. BUNS/IV'HOE v D'NONG
NUNAW C v PASCOE V
SEAFORD U v HOLLAND P
CLAYTON v WILLIAMST.
GEELONG v ROSANNA
MORDIALLOC v ELTHAM
ESSENDON C v HAWTH
BYES: Chelsea, Doncaster Rovers, Westgate, Albion, Clarinda, Richmond, Heidelberg City, Knox City, Moorabbin City, Regent, Yallourn, Keilor & Keysborough.

All games will be of 2 x 45 minute halves with an interval. In the event that the game is drawn after full time, an extra time period of 2 x 10 minutes each way will be played, if still a draw after extra time penalties will be taken in accordance with the laws of the game.

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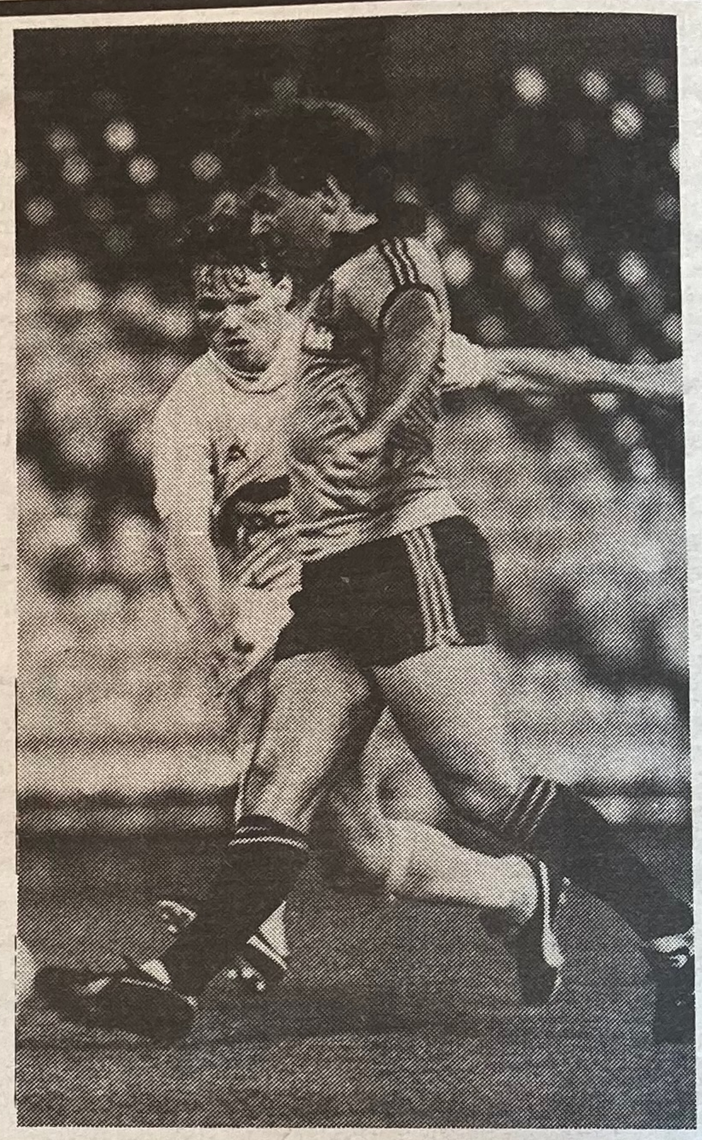
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS

v

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

CHAPLIN RESERVE
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25
K.O. 5.30 p.m.



● Peter Raskopoulos

SYDNEY CROATIA v MELBOURNE JUST

CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 KO 6.30 p.m

ST GEORGE v HEIDELBERG UNITED

ST GEORGE STADIUM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 KO 7 p.m.

BLACKTOWN CITY v APIA LEICHHARDT

GABBIE STADIUM SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26 KO 5 pm

ADELAIDE CITY v MARCONI

HINDMARSH STADIUM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25 KO 8 p.m.